

which appeared in the London papers to have described O'Connell as an incendiary and a traitor. Disraeli then and ever afterwards maintained that the summary misrepresented him, and that he had only quoted from tin; Whigs the language in which they had but recently donounced their present ally; and his explanation is in full accord with the speech as reported in all the local papers.<sup>1</sup> The unlucky version, however, came before the eyes of O'Connell and much incensed him; and he seized the opportunity of a meeting in Dublin a few days later to take a savage revenge on his supposed assailant.

I must confess, that some of the attacks made on me, particularly one, by a Mr. Disraeli, at Taunton, surprised me. Anything so richly deserving the appellation of superlative blackguardism, or at all equal to that in impudence and assurance, I never before met with. The annals of ruffianism do not furnish anything like it. He is an author, I believe, of a couple of novels, and that was all I knew about him until 1841, when he<sup>2</sup> wrote to me, being about to go and for High Wycombe, requesting a letter of recommendation, from me to the electors. He took the letter with him to the place, got it printed and placarded all over the place. The next I heard of him was his being a candidate for Marylebone; in this he was also unsuccessful. He got tired of being a Radical any longer after these two defeats, and was determined to try his chance as a Tory. He stands the other day at Taunton, and by way of recommending himself to the electors he calls me an incendiary and a traitor. Now, my answer to this piece of gratuitous importunence, is, that, he is an egregious liar. He is a liar both in fact and words. What! shall such a vile creature be tolerated in England? Shall the man be received by any constituency who after coining forward on two opposite

<sup>1</sup> Tim H. report that in 1847 *Wentworth's Chronicle* for April 30, 1847, reprinted in Knolly's *Nellie's tipple* of Lord J. Russell's. It is the word 'incendiary' that is not omitted at all, and the only mention of 'traitor' is in a *Journal* in which the Whigs are described as 'that weak and traitor party in the state who could only obtain power by leaguering themselves with one whom they had denounced as a traitor.'

<sup>2</sup> This was inaccurate. The application, as has been seen, was made through Bulwer.